

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 32, 39, and 41 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as shown below:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claims 6-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide which encodes a polypeptide that comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claims 10-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (original): An Escherichia coli strain Top10/pXK99EdeaD deposited as DSM 14464.

Claims 13-29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide that is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1 and encodes a polypeptide that has the enzymatic activity of a DNA/RNA helicase.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 30, wherein said polynucleotide is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (currently amended): ~~The An isolated polynucleotide of claim 9 which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2,~~ wherein said encoded polypeptide has the enzymatic activity of a DNA/RNA helicase.

Claim 34 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 259 to 2130 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 35 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1 that encodes a polypeptide having the enzymatic activity of a DNA/RNA helicase.

Claim 36 (currently amended): An isolated polynucleotide that hybridizes to the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions comprising washing in 0.5 x SSC at a temperature of a final wash at 68°C, wherein said isolated polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide that has the enzymatic activity of a DNA/RNA helicase.

Claim 37 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of any of the claims 5, 9, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36 or ~~33 to~~ 37.

Claim 39 (canceled)

Claim 40 (currently amended): ~~An~~ The isolated polynucleotide of claim 39 consisting of a DNA fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said polynucleotide consists of at least 20 30 consecutive nucleotides.

Claim 41 (canceled)

Claim 42 (currently amended): ~~An~~ The isolated polynucleotide of claim 41 consisting of a DNA fragment of the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said fragment polynucleotide consists of at least 20 30 consecutive nucleotides.

Claim 43 (currently amended): A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim ~~39~~ 40 or 42.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The vector of claim 43, wherein said vector is pXK99EdeaD deposited in Escherichia coli Top/pXK99EdeaD under DSM 14464.

Claim 45 (currently amended): A primer for the synthesis of a polynucleotide in a polymerase chain reaction ~~comprising~~ consisting of a DNA fragment consisting of at least ~~18~~ 30 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1 or consisting of at least 30 consecutive nucleotides of the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide that has the enzymatic activity of a DNA/RNA helicase.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The primer of claim 45, wherein said DNA fragment consists of at least ~~20~~ 40 consecutive nucleotides.

Claim 47 (currently amended): A probe for the detection or isolation of a polynucleotide in a hybridization reaction ~~comprising~~ consisting of a DNA fragment consisting of at least ~~18~~ 30 consecutive nucleotides selected from SEQ ID NO: 1 or consisting of at least 30 consecutive nucleotides of the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide that has the enzymatic activity of a DNA/RNA helicase.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The probe of claim 47, wherein said DNA fragment consists of at least ~~20~~ 40 consecutive nucleotides.

Claim 49 (currently amended): A ~~recombinant host cell~~ bacterium of the species Escherichia coli comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claims 5, 9, 30, 31 or 33 to 37.

Claim 50 (canceled)

Claim 51 (previously presented): A recombinant host cell of the genus *Corynebacterium* or of the species *Escherichia coli* comprising the vector of claim 43.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The host cell of claim 51, wherein said host cell is of the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.